

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 19, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

No claims are amended. Claims 9, 11, 16, 18, and 22 were previously cancelled. No claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19-21 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 12-15, 17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0065824 to Kudo et al. (hereinafter “Kudo”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,404 to Kim (hereinafter “Kim”). *Office Action* at p. 2, ¶ 4. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Independent claim 1 is allowable over *Kudo* in view of *Kim* in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a second interface module including a second universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter connected to the first universal asynchronous receiver through a serial interface for serial communication.” As admitted by the Office, “*Kudo* does not expressly disclose the interface apparatus comprises: ... a second interface module including a second universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter connected to the first universal asynchronous receiver through a serial interface for serial communication.” *Office Action* at p. 3. Thus, *Kudo* does not teach or suggest these features of claim 1.

Kim fails to cure the deficiencies of *Kudo*. The Office purports that “*Kim* teaches ... the first and second UART are connected through the serial common port for communication.” *Office Action* at p. 3. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Kim discloses “first and second UART blocks 100 and 101” where “a select control and core interface control block 103 [receives] a receiver clock signal RCLK for interface between the first UART block 100 and the second UART block 101.” *Kim* at col. 3:32-34 and Fig. 2. As shown, the first UART block 100 communicates with the select control and core interface control block 103 and the second UART block 101 communicates with the select control and core interface control block 103. *Kim* is entirely silent regarding any teaching or

suggestion concerning whether or not the first UART block 100 communicates with the second UART block 101.

Additionally, *Kim* discloses that “the signals RCLK1 and RCLK2 are transferred to the first UART block 100 and the second UART block 101, respectively.” *Kim* at col. 7:16-18. Therefore, *Kim*’s select control and core interface control block 103 communicates with the first UART block 100 and the second UART block 101 respectively. Thus, *Kim* does not disclose that the second UART block 101 is connected to the first UART block 100 through a serial interface for serial communication as purported by the Office. Accordingly, *Kim* does not teach or suggest “a second interface module including a second universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter connected to the first universal asynchronous receiver through a serial interface for serial communication,” as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the features as recited in independent claim 1.

Independent claim 12 is allowable over *Kudo* in view of *Kim* in that claim 12 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “the second interface module includes a second universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter connected to the first universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter through a serial interface for serial communication.” For the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, nothing in *Kudo* and *Kim*, either singularly or combined, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, Applicants respectfully assert that *Kudo* and *Kim*, either singularly or combined, do not teach or suggest at least the above feature of claim 12, and respectfully submit that independent claim 12 is allowable over *Kudo* and *Kim*.

Independent claim 19 is allowable over *Kudo* in view of *Kim* in that claim 19 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “the second interface module includes a second universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter connected to the first universal asynchronous receiver and transmitter through a serial interface for serial communication.” For the same or similar reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, nothing in *Kudo* and *Kim*, either singularly or combined, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Hence, Applicants respectfully assert that *Kudo* and *Kim*, either singularly or combined do not teach or suggest at

least the above feature of claim 19, and respectfully submit that independent claim 19 is allowable over *Kudo* and *Kim*.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1. Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from independent claim 1, claims 13-17 depend from independent claim 12 and claims 20 and 21 depend from independent claim 19. It stands to reason that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of those dependent claims should be withdrawn as well.

CONCLUSION

The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: November 19, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Michael I. Angert/
Michael I. Angert
Registration No.: 46,522
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant